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SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter MADDENS (Belgium)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th to 10th, 43rd and 44th meetings, on 10 to 12 and 17 to 20 October and 20 and 21 December 1995. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/50/SR.4-10, 43 and 44).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Committee on Contributions. 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 11 (A/50/11).

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II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.5/50/L.21 AND A/C.5/50/L.8, AND OF DRAFT DECISIONS A/C.5/50/L.22 AND A/C.5/50/L.28

4. At the 43rd meeting, on 20 December 1995, the representative of Iraq introduced a draft resolution entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" (A/C.5/50/L.8).

5. At the 44th meeting, on 21 December, the representative of Ireland, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced and orally revised draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.21 and introduced two draft decisions, A/C.5/50/L.22 and A/C.5/50/L.28, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations".

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted without a vote draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.21, as revised (see para. 12) and draft decisions A/C.5/50/L.22 and A/C.5/50/L.28 (see para. 13).

7. Also at the 44th meeting, the representative of New Zealand made a statement and proposed under rule 117 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly the closure of the debate on draft resolution A/C.5/50/L.8 submitted by Iraq.

8. The representative of Singapore made a statement on a point of clarification (see A/C.5/50/SR.44).

9. Statements were made by the delegations of Canada, and France in favour of the motion, and by the delegations of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Algeria and Cuba against the motion (see A/C.5/50/SR.44).

10. The Committee then proceeded to vote on the motion, which was adopted by a recorded vote of 48 to 3, with 23 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Against: Algeria, Cuba, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Abstaining: Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Latvia, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

11. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Iraq, Mexico, Singapore and Ireland (see A/C.5/50/SR.44).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Noting the requests by Azerbaijan, Comoros, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan that, as an exceptional measure, any arrears in respect of assessed contributions for the regular budget of the United Nations, peace-keeping operations or international tribunals as at 1 January 1996 and for 1996 be treated as being attributable to conditions beyond their control and that, accordingly, the question of the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations should not arise,

1. Recognizes the importance of requests with respect to the application of Article 19 being considered by the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

2. Requests the Committee on Contributions to hold a special session of one week's duration as early as possible in 1996 to consider representations from Member States with respect to the application of Article 19 of the Charter and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fiftieth session pursuant to rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

3. Invites Member States to submit detailed information to the Committee on Contributions in explanation of their requests as soon as possible so as to facilitate the work of the Committee;

4. Decides to consider the report of the Committee on Contributions on this matter as early as possible during its resumed fiftieth session.

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13. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly resolves that:

(a) The rate of assessment for Palau, admitted to membership in the United Nations on 15 December 1994, shall be 0.01 per cent for 1995, 1996 and 1997;

(b) The contributions of Palau for 1995, 1996 and 1997 shall be applied to the same basis of assessment as for other Member States, except that, in the case of appropriations or apportionments approved by the General Assembly for the financing of peace-keeping operations, the contributions of Palau, as determined by the group of contributions to which they may be assigned by the Assembly, shall be calculated in proportion to the calendar year;

(c) The 1995 assessments of Palau shall be taken into account as miscellaneous income in accordance with regulation 5.2 (c) of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

(d) For 1996 and 1997, the rate of assessment for Palau shall be added to the scale of assessments established under General Assembly resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994;

(e) The advance of Palau to the Working Capital Fund shall be calculated by the application of the rate of assessment of 0.01 per cent to the authorized level of the Fund and shall be added to the Fund pending the incorporation of its rate in a 100 per cent scale.

DRAFT DECISION II

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly requests the Committee on Contributions, in connection with paragraph 52 of its report, 2/ to reconsider the inclusion of the Member State involved in the list of countries falling under paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 48/223 B of 23 December 1993.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 11 (A/50/11).